



House of Representatives

File No. 346

General Assembly

February Session, 2002

(Reprint of File No. 81)

Substitute House Bill No. 5408
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 4, 2002

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED
BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COMPANIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 16-49e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) As used in this section "identification" means a Social Security
4 number, the number of an identity card issued pursuant to section 1-
5 1h, as amended, the number of a motor vehicle operator's license
6 issued pursuant to section 14-36, [or any other means of identification
7 approved by the Department of Public Utility Control] a valid passport
8 issued by the United States or a foreign government, a resident alien
9 card or an alien registration card issued by the United States
10 Immigration and Naturalization Service, any other valid forms of
11 identification issued by the federal government or a state or municipal
12 government, or any other means of identification approved by the
13 Department of Public Utility Control. A public service company, as
14 defined in section 16-1, as amended, may request a person opening an

15 account with the company to provide the company with two forms of
16 identification, one of which contains a picture of the person, at the time
17 of opening the account. If a person opening an account fails to provide
18 the requested identification, the public service company shall open an
19 account for such person and allow fifteen days for such person to
20 provide the company with identification. If such person fails to
21 provide the required identification within fifteen days, the public
22 service company may terminate service to such person.

23 (b) A telecommunications company that is certified to provide
24 telecommunications service pursuant to section 16-247g may not
25 require a prospective residential customer to provide identification as
26 a condition of providing telecommunications service, except to the
27 extent that a public service company is permitted pursuant to
28 subsection (a) of this section.

29 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude a company
30 from accepting additional forms of identification, provided the
31 company accepts the forms of identification specified in subsection (a)
32 of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill changes the forms of identification required of an individual that would be acceptable by a public service company for the opening of an account and approved by the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC). It has no fiscal impact on the DPUC.

House "A" is technical in nature and has no fiscal impact.

OLR Amended Bill Analysis

sHB 5408 (as amended by House "A")*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION
REQUIRED BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows utilities regulated by the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) to demand two forms of identification rather than one, when a person opens an account. It allows the utility to demand that one of the forms of identification have a photograph. Under current law, identification means the number on a Social Security card or driver's license or non-driver's identification issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles and other forms of DPUC-approved identification. The bill expands the acceptable forms of identification to include (1) valid U.S. and foreign passports; (2) resident alien or alien registration cards issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service; and (3) other valid forms of identification issued by a municipal, state, or federal government. By law, if the person does not have acceptable identification, the utility must still open the account, but can terminate service if the person does not provide identification within 15 days.

The bill prohibits DPUC-certified telecommunications companies, such as long-distance carriers, from demanding identification from prospective residential service customers other than as described above. The companies are not required to provide service if the person does not provide identification.

The bill does not bar utilities or telecommunications companies from accepting other forms of identification, so long as they accept the forms described above.

*House Amendment "A" restores DPUC-approved forms of identification as an acceptable alternative and makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0